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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Attorney Docket No. 016891/0842**

**Applicant:** Koichi SAWADA

**Title:** SYSTEM, METHOD AND STORAGE MEDIUM RECORDING  
THEREON PROGRAM FOR FORWARDING PRINTED  
MATTERS

**Application No.:** 10/026,428

**Filed:** December 27, 2001

**Examiner:** Unknown

**Art Unit:** 2161

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56 and 37 CFR §1.97**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

### **TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is believed to be filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b), prior to the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits (first scenario). If that is not the case, such as in a second scenario in which a first Office Action on the merits has been mailed before the filing of the instant Information Disclosure Statement, then either a certification or fee is required, and a certification is provided below. If neither of the first or second scenarios is the case, such as if a final Office Action or a notice of allowance has been mailed by the PTO (third scenario), then both a certification and fee are required, and in that case a certification is provided below and also the PTO is authorized to obtain the necessary fee to have the instant IDS considered, from Foley & Lardner Deposit Account #19-0741.

### **CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned hereby certifies in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information A2 – A4 listed on the Form PTO SB/08 submitted with this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Statement. Item of information A1 is a U.S. patent that is a counterpart to item of information A3.

### **RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

A translation of a portion of a Japanese Office Action that issued February 24, 2004 with respect to a counterpart Japanese patent application is provided below.

“Cited Literature 1, 2

A bi-directional conversion and connection system for electronic mail and postal mail is described in Cited Literature 1. It is recognized that determining the shipping address based on the destination of an e-mail is an item that could be conveniently designed according to the decision of a person in the industry.

It is thus recognized that the invention according to Claims 1-14 could be easily conceived of by a person in the industry based on Cited Literature 1.

List of Cited Literature

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H10-133975

Record of Prior Art Literature Search Results

- Fields searched      IPC 7th Edition      G06F 17/60
- Prior art literature search results
  1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication 2000-209262
  2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication 2000-285136

This Record of Prior Art Literature Search Results does not constitute a reason for rejection."

Applicant's statements regarding the Japanese Office Action are based on a partial translation that Applicant's representative obtained. These statements should in no way be considered as an agreement by Applicant with, or an admission of, what is asserted in the Japanese Office Action.

Applicant respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

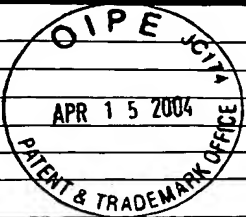
Respectfully submitted,

April 15, 2004  
Date

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  Date Submitted: April 15, 2004 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>		
Application Number		10/026,428				
Filing Date		12/27/2001				
First Named Inventor		Koichi SAWADA				
Group Art Unit		2161				
Examiner Name		Unassigned				
Attorney Docket Number		016891-0842				

Sheet 1 of 1

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	A1	6,442,589		TAKAHASHI et al.	08/27/2002	

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	A2	JP	10-133975			05/22/1998		ABS
	A3	JP	2000-209262			07/28/2000		ABS
	A4	JP	2000-285136			10/13/2000		ABS

### NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>6</sup>

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Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

<sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.